

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An automatic analyzer that analyzes samples using disposable parts used in contact with the samples and changed for each sample, characterized by comprising:

a ~~lift~~supply lifter that raises a plurality of part racks holding unused disposable parts to a rack separation station, while keeping the part racks stacked together;

a rack separator that hinders the uppermost one of said stacked part racks from being lowered when said ~~lift~~supply lifter lowers, while allowing the other part racks to lower, so that said uppermost rack is separated from said other part racks so as to remain in said rack separation station; and

a ~~rack-recovering part-recovery~~lifter that operates after the parts on the separated part rack have been consumed, to move ~~this used~~the separated part rack downward for recovery; and

a movable table having the supply lifter and the recovery lifter mounted thereon.

2. (Original) The automatic analyzer according to Claim 1, characterized in that said part rack holds a plurality of disposable nozzle tips and disposable reaction containers.

3. (Original) The automatic analyzer according to Claim 1, characterized in that said part rack is shaped like a trapezoid having a lower edge larger than an upper edge, and said part rack has protruding parts formed on at least two opposed side walls and which can abut against fall hindering members of said rack separator.

4. (Currently Amended) The automatic analyzer according to Claim 1, characterized in that said ~~lift~~ supply lifter is housed in a rack lift chamber having a part introducing door locked while said ~~lift~~ supply lifter is in operation.

5. (Original) The automatic analyzer according to Claim 1, characterized in that said rack separator has a pair of hindering members that hinder the uppermost part rack from lowering, and the pair of hindering members operate so that their interval increases when said uppermost part rack is raised to said rack separation station and decreases after said uppermost part rack has passed by the position of the pair of hindering members and before the second part rack from the top passes by the position of said pair of hindering members.

6. (Currently Amended) The automatic analyzer according to Claim 1, characterized in that said ~~lift~~ supply lifter comprises a lift having a rack receiver formed thereon and which can move into said part rack.

7. (Original) The automatic analyzer according to Claim 1, characterized in that a first rack position sensor that senses the uppermost one of the stacked part racks

and a second rack position sensor that senses the second part rack from the top of the stacked part racks are arranged in the vicinity of said rack separation station, and the analyzer comprises a control part that determines whether or not said uppermost part rack has been properly separated from the other part racks on the basis of sensed information from said first and second rack position sensor.

8. (Currently Amended) An automatic analyzer that analyzes samples using disposable parts used in contact with the samples and changed for each sample, ~~characterized by comprising:~~

a ~~lift~~supply lifter that raises a plurality of part racks holding unused disposable parts to a rack separation station, while keeping the part racks stacked together;

a rack separator that holds the uppermost one of the stacked part racks so as to leave it on said rack separation station;

a rack positioning device that presses the part rack taken out from said rack separation station and then moved to a part take-out station, at a plurality of points thereof so that the part rack rests at a predetermined position; ~~and~~

a part take-out device that takes out disposable parts from the said positioned part rack; and

a moveable table having the supply lifter and a recovery lifter mounted thereon.

9. (Original) The automatic analyzer according to Claim 8, characterized in that said part rack has positioning recesses formed at a pair of opposite upper edges thereof,

and said rack positioning device comprises members that abut against said positioning recesses.

10. (Currently Amended) A part feeding device, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

a supply lifter having a lift that can move a plurality of part racks while keeping them stacked together, the part racks each holding a plurality of disposable parts used to handle samples, the lift being raised to a rack separation station when the rack separation station can receive a new part rack;

a rack separator that takes out the uppermost one of the stacked part racks from said rack separation station so as to separate the uppermost part rack from the other part racks;

a rack feeding device that moves the separated part rack in a horizontal direction from said rack separation station to a part take-out station; ~~and~~

a recovery lifter having a lift that receives the part rack from which the parts have been consumed while the part rack is on said part take-out station, at a position higher than the lowest position after part consumption; and

a moveable table having the supply lifter and the recovery lifter mounted thereon.

11. (Original) The part feeding device according to Claim 10, characterized in that the lift of said recovery lifter has a rack receiver that can move into the part rack from which the parts have been consumed, in order to receive the part rack.

12. (Original) The part feeding device according to Claim 11, characterized in that

after receiving the part rack from which the parts have been consumed, at the position higher than said lowest position after part consumption, the lift of said recovery lifter lowers down to said lowest position.

13. (Original) The part feeding device according to Claim 10, characterized in that the lift of said recovery lifter is raised and lowered through a space limited by a guide wall arranged to fit the size of said part rack.

14. (Currently Amended) The part feeding device according to Claim 10, characterized in that said part take-out station is arranged ~~on an extension of a direction in which the lift of~~ above said recovery lifter ~~is raised~~, and the part rack on said part take-out station is placed on an openable and closable member that is opened when the lift of said recovery lifter receives the part rack.

15. (Currently Amended) An automatic analyzer that analyzes samples by taking out a disposable nozzle tip from a part rack located on a part take-out station and pipetting a sample from a sample container in the ~~taken-putout~~ nozzle tip to a reaction container, ~~characterized by comprising:~~

a ~~lift~~supply lifter that raises a lift on which a plurality of part racks holding unused disposable nozzle tips are stacked together;

a sensor that senses that the uppermost one of the plurality of part racks raised by said lift has reached a rack separation station;

a rack separating device that holds and hinders said uppermost part rack from falling from said rack separation station on the basis of the sensing of said

uppermost part rack by the sensor; ~~and~~

a rack transferring device that transfers, by lowering said lift, said uppermost part rack separated from the other part racks, from said rack separation station to said part take-out station; and

a moveable table having the supply lifter and a recovery lifter mounted thereon.

16. (Currently Amended) The automatic analyzer according to Claim 15, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising a transporting device that takes out a disposable part from the part rack on said part take-out station and transports this part to a predetermined position, ~~and wherein that~~ each part rack holding said nozzle tips also holds disposable reaction containers, and wherein said transporting device ~~that~~ performs an operation of transporting a nozzle tip on said part rack to a position at which an unused nozzle tip is installed in a sampling device and an operation of transporting a reaction container on said part rack to a reaction part in which a sample and a reagent are allowed to react with each other.